Understanding

The
Rank and Status
of
Imam Mahdi[AS]

Through the Prophetic Traditions

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The Rank and Status (*Maqam wa Martaba*) of Imam Mahdi[AS]

The following Ahadith (traditions) of the holy Prophet[SAS] are a selection from
al-'Arf al-Wardi fi Akhbar al-Mahdi
[*The Rose Scented Perfume: On the Reports of the Mahdi*][1]:

Mahdi's[AS] Maqam wa Martaba
Through the Prophetic Traditions:

[8] And Ibn Majah and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Anas ibn Malik [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "I heard the Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] saying:

"We, the children of 'Abd al-Muttalib, are the chiefs of the people of Paradise: Myself, Hamzah, 'Ali, Ja'far, al-Hasan, al-Husayn, and al-Mahdi."

[9] And Ahmad, al-Barudi in *al-Ma'rifah*, and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"I bring you good tidings of the Mahdi, a man from Quraysh, from my descendants, who will be sent among my Ummah at a time of conflict between men and earthquakes. Then he will fill the earth with equity and justice, as it had been filled with tyranny and oppression. The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him, and he will distribute wealth *sihahan*."

So a man said to him: "What is the meaning of *sihahan*?" He said: "Equitably between men."

[10] And Abu Dawud and at-Tabarani narrated from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud [radhiyallahu 'anhu] from the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] that he said:

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[1] By al-Hafidh Jalal ad-Din as-Suyuti, rendered into English by Muhammad at-Tayyib ibn Gary with his clarifications in blue text between square brackets [ ]

"If but a single day remained for this world, Allah would prolong that day until He would send in it a man from my household, whose name is like my name, and whose father's name is like my father's name, and he will fill the earth with equity and justice, as it had been filled with tyranny and oppression."

[15] And Abu Dawud and Nu'aym ibn Hammad in *al-Fitan*, narrated from 'Ali [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he looked at his son al-Hasan [radhiyallahu 'anhu] and said:

"This son of mine is a sayyid [chief], as the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] called him, and from his loins shall come a man with the same name as your Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam], who resembles him in his behaviour but not in his appearance."

Then he mentioned an account and added: "He will fill the earth with justice."

[20] And at-Tirmidhi narrated from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri [radhiyallahu 'anhu], and declared it hasan [i.e. good], that he said:

"We feared that innovations would occur after the death of our Prophet, so we asked the Prophet of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] and he said:

"From my Ummah will come the Mahdi; he will live for five, seven, or nine" – Zayd [one of the narrators] is the one who was unsure.

He [i.e. Abu Sa'id] said: "We said: "What is that?" He said: "Years."

He said: "So a man will come to him and say: "O Mahdi, give me, give me!" He said: "So he will gather up in his garment all that he is able to carry."

[21] And Nu'aym ibn Hammad and Ibn Majah narrated from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"In my Ummah will be the Mahdi, for at least seven [years], otherwise nine. And during that time my Ummah will enjoy such bounty as it never enjoyed before. It will receive its provision abundantly and it will not need to store any of it up. On that day, wealth will pour out of the ground, and a man will come and say: "O Mahdi, give me!" And he will say: "Take!"

[23] And Ibn Majah, al-Hakim and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Thawban [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam]:

"Three will fight where your treasure is, each one the son of a khalifah. But it will not go to a single one of them. Then, the black banners will come out of the east and kill you as no people have ever been killed. Then, the khilafah of Allah, the Mahdi, will come, so when you hear of him then go to him and give the bay'ah to him, even if you must crawl over ice. For he is Allah's khalifah, the Mahdi."[2]

[30] And at-Tabarani narrated in *al-Awsat* from Talhah ibn 'Ubaydillah [radhiyallahu 'anhu] from the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] that he said:

"There will be a trial that will not quieten from one end except that it will flare up again in another, until a caller announces from the sky: "Your amir is so-and-so!"

[31] And Abu Nu'aym narrated from Ibn 'Amr [radhiyallahu 'anhuma] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"The Mahdi will come, with a turban on his head, and a caller will announce: "This is the Mahdi, the khalifah of Allah, so follow him!"

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[2] *This Hadeeth is found in Ibn Maajah, Ahmad's Musnad, al-Haakim's Mustadrak and others.*
After analysing the chain of narration found in Ibn Maajah's Sunan the narrators are in the following authentic unbroken reliable chain:

1) **Reported to Ibn Maajah by both Muhammad bin Yahya and Ahmad bin Yusuf** - Both reliable; Imam Muslim has said about Ahmad bin Yusuf, "He is reliable (thiqqah)." an-Nasaa'i has said, "There is no problem in him." ad-DaraaquTni has said, "Reliable and noble (thiqqah nabeel)."
2) **`Abdur-Razzaq bin Hammaam as-San`aani** - Reliable. Ahmad bin Hanbal was asked about him, "Have you seen anyone better in Hadeeth than `Abdur-Razzaaq?" He replied, "No".
3) **Sufyaan ath-Thawri** - Too reputable to record his merits. Very reliable. Shu`bah, Sufyaan bin `Uyaynah, Abu `AaSim an-Nabeel and YaHya ibn Ma`een among others said: "Sufyaan is the 'Ameer al-Mu'mineen" of Hadeeth"!
4) **Khaalid bin Mahraan al-Hathaa'** - Reliable. Ahmad bin Hanbal has said, "Trustworthy (thabt)." Ibn Ma`een and an-Nasaa'i have both said, "Reliable (thiqqah)."
5) **Abi Qulaaba Abdullaah bin Zayd al-Harrami** - Reliable. Muhammad bin Sa`d has said in his "at-Tabaqah ath-Thaaniyah min Ahl al-Basrah" about him, "He was reliable (thiqqah)."
6) **Abu Asmaa' `Amroo bin Marthad ar-RaHabi** - Reliable. al-`Ijly has said about him, "Shaami, Tabi`ee, Reliable (thiqqah)."
7) **Thawbaan** - Companion and servant of the Prophet (Sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam).
8) **The Prophet** (Sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam). ["Tahtheeb al-Kamaal" of al-Mizzi and "Tahtheeb at-Tahtheeb" of Ibn Hajar were referenced for verification of the Narrators]
In this chain of narrators, weakness is nowhere in sight, Subhan Allah.

[32] And Abu Nu'aym and al-Khatib in *Talkhis al-Mutashabih*, narrated from Ibn 'Amr [radhiyallahu 'anhuma] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"The Mahdi will come, and an angel above his head will announce: "This is the Mahdi, so follow him!"

[34] And at-Tabarani narrated from 'Ali [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said to the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam]:

"Is the Mahdi from us, or from other than us O Messenger of Allah?"

He said: "Rather, from us. Allah will complete the affair with us as He began it with us. With us, they will be saved from shirk [polytheism] and with us, Allah will unite their hearts after open enmity, as with us, Allah united their hearts after the enmity of shirk."

'Ali said: "Will they be believers or infidels?" He said: "There will be those put to trial, and there will be infidels."

[35] And Nu'aym ibn Hammad and Abu Nu'aym narrated via Makhul from 'Ali [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said:

"I said: "O Messenger of Allah, is the Mahdi from us, the family of Muhammad? Or from other than us?"

He said: "No, rather he is from us. Allah will complete the religion with him, as He began it with us. With us, they will be saved from the trials, as these have been saved from shirk. And with us, Allah will unite their hearts after the enmity of the trials, as He united the hearts of these after the enmity of shirk. And with us, they will become after the enmity of the trials brothers, as these have become after the enmity of shirk brothers in their religion."

[50] And Ahmad and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Abu Sa'id [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "The Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"The world will not come to an end until a man from my household rules the earth. He will fill the earth with justice, as it had been filled before him with tyranny. He will rule for seven years."

[51] And Abu Nu'aym and al-Hakim narrated from Abu Sa'id [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that the Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"The Mahdi will come from my Ummah. Allah will send him as a saviour for the people. The Ummah will enjoy bounty, the livestock will increase, the earth will bring forth its crops, and he will give out wealth equitably."

[53] And Abu Nu'aym narrated from Hudhayfah [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"If there remained but one day for this world, Allah would send a man whose name is my name and whose behaviour is my behaviour, whose kunyah [patronym] is Abu 'Abdillah. He will be given the bay'ah between ar-Rukn and al-Maqam. Allah will restore by him the religion, and grant him many conquests, so that there is no-one left on the earth except that he says: "*La ilaha illallah* [there is no god but Allah]."

So Salman stood up and said: "O Messenger of Allah, from which of your children is he?" He said: "From the descendants of this son of mine," and he put his hand on al-Husayn.

[55] And at-Tabarani in *al-Kabir* and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Ibn Mas'ud [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"A man will come from my household whose name will be like my name, and whose behaviour will be like my behaviour. He will fill it [i.e. the earth] with equity and justice as it had been filled with oppression and tyranny."

[66] And Abu Nu'aym narrated from Ibn 'Abbas [radhiyallahu 'anhuma] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"That Ummah will not perish which I am at its beginning, 'Isa at its end, and the Mahdi in its middle."[3]

[3] The author of Mirqat (the commentary of Mishkat) writes that this hadith has been reported by the following chain of transmission: Hazrat Imam Jafar[RH] - he from (his father) Muhammad Baqar[RH] - he from (his grandfather) Imam Zainulabideen[RZ] - he from Imam Hussain[RZ] - he from Hazrat Ali bin Abu Talib[RZ]. The author of Mirqat says that such a chain of narrators (all of whom are the most respectable - in linage, scholarship and piety) is called the ***silsilat az-zahab*** or the golden chain of narrators.

[82] And ar-Ruwayyani in his *Musnad*, and Abu Nu'aym narrated from Hudhayfah [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"The Mahdi is a man from my descendants; his complexion is that of an Arab, and his build that of an Isra'ili. Upon his right cheek is a mole like a shining star. He will fill the earth with justice as it was filled with tyranny, and during his khilafah the inhabitants of the earth, the inhabitants of the heavens, and the birds in the sky will be pleased."

[87] And at-Tabarani in *al-Kabir*, and Abu Nu'aym narrated from 'Ali ibn 'Ali al-Hilali, from his father, who said:

"I entered upon the Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] during his final illness from which he died, and there was Fatimah by his head."

He [i.e. 'Ali al-Hilali] said: "So she wept until her voice rose, and the Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] lifted his hand towards her and said: "My beloved Fatimah, why are you weeping?" So she said: "I fear loss after you." So he said: "O my beloved, do you not know that Allah ['azza wa-jall] looked out upon the earth and chose from it your father and sent him with His Message, then He looked out upon the earth and chose from it your husband, and He revealed to me that I should marry you to him, O Fatimah! And we, the Ahl al-Bayt, have seven qualities given to no-one before us, and which no-one will be given after us: I am the Seal of the Prophets, the noblest of Prophets before Allah, the most beloved of creation to Allah ['azza wa-jall], and I am your father. And my heir [wasiyy] is the best of heirs and the most beloved of them to Allah, and he is your husband. And our martyr is the best of martyrs and the most beloved of them to Allah, and he is your uncle Hamzah ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib, and the uncle of your husband. And from us is the one who has two green wings, with which he flies with the angels in Paradise wherever he wishes [i.e. Ja'far ibn Abi Talib], and he is your father's cousin and the brother of your husband. And from us are the two grandsons of this Ummah, your two sons al-Hasan and al-Husayn, who are the chiefs of the youths of the people of Paradise. And their father, by He Who sent me with the Truth, is better than them, O Fatimah! By He Who sent me with the Truth, from them [i.e. from al-Hasan and al-Husayn] will be the Mahdi of this Ummah, when the world descends into massacre and chaos, trials appear and the ways are blocked, and everyone falls upon each other, so that the old will not have mercy on the young and the young will not show respect to the old, then at that time Allah will send from them he who will open the fortresses of misguidance and the closed hearts. He will establish the religion at the end of time as I had established it in the beginning, and he

will fill the world with justice as it had been filled with tyranny. O Fatimah! Be not sad, and do not weep, for Allah ['azza wa-jall] is more Merciful and more Compassionate to you than I am, and that is because of the place that you have in my heart. And Allah married you to a husband who is that noblest of your household in lineage, the best of them in ancestry, the most merciful of them to his subjects, the most just in dealing equitably, and the most insightful of them in judgement. And I have asked my Lord ['azza wa-jall] that you be the first to join me from my household."

'Ali said: "So when the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] was taken away, Fatimah [radhiyallahu 'anha] lived but seventy-five days, and then Allah ['azza wa-jall] took her and joined her with him [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam]."

[91] And Nu'aym ibn Hammad narrated, with an authentic chain according to the conditions of Muslim, from 'Ali [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said:

"The trials are four: Fitnat as-Sarra' [the trial of ease and luxury], Fitnat adh-Dharra' [the trial of severe hardship], and a trial like this – and he mentioned the gold-mine – then a man will come from the descendants of the Prophet [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam], by whose hands Allah will rectify their affair."

[175] And he also narrated from Ka'b that he said:

"I have found the Mahdi referred to in the Books of the Prophets, that there will be in his deeds no injustice or deficiency."

[176] And he also narrated via Dhamrah from Ibn Shawdhab, from Muhammad ibn Sirin that he mentioned a trial that would come, and said:

"When that happens, then sit in your houses until you hear the people talking about someone better than Abu Bakr and 'Umar [radhiyallahu 'anhuma]."

It was said: "O Abu Bakr [the kunyah of Muhammad ibn Sirin]! Better than Abu Bakr and 'Umar?" He said: "Some of the Prophets were favoured over others.[4]"

[231] And Ibn A'tham al-Kufi narrated in *Kitab al-Futuh* from 'Ali ibn Abi Talib [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said:

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[4] قال: قد كان يفضل على بعضالأنبياء

And its translation is 'He said: 'Verily he is superior to some prophets'.

"Good for at-Talaqan! For Allah has treasures there, not of gold or silver, but of men who know Allah as He should be known. They will be the supporters of the Mahdi at the end of time.

[232] And Abu Bakr al-Kulabadhi narrated in *Fawa'id al-Akhbar* from Jabir ibn 'Abdillah [radhiyallahu 'anhuma] that he said: "The Messenger of Allah [sallallahu 'alayhi wa-sallam] said:

"Whoever denies the coming of the Dajjal, then he has disbelieved. And whoever denies the coming of the Mahdi, then he has disbelieved."

[235] And in *al-Firdaws*, from the hadith of Ibn 'Abbas [radhiyallahu 'anhu] marfu'an:

"The Mahdi is the peacock of the people of Paradise."

[249] And Ibn al-Munadi narrated in *al-Malahim* from 'Ali [radhiyallahu 'anhu] that he said:

"A man from my children will come, near the advent of the Hour, at a time when the hearts of the believers will die just as the bodies die, due to what they will suffer of harms, difficulties, hunger, killing, constant trials, great battles, the abolishment of the Sunan, the revival of innovations, and the abandonment of commanding the good and forbidding the evil.

So Allah will revive, through the Mahdi, the Sunan that had been abolished, and the hearts of the believers will rejoice at his justice and blessings. The groups of the non-Arabs and the tribes of the Arabs will unite with him, and he will remain like that for not many years, less than ten. Then he will die."

[250] Ibn al-Munadi said:

"It is written in the Book of Daniel that the Sufyanis are three, and that the Mahdis are three. The first Sufyani will come, and after he has come and his reputation spread, the first Mahdi will come out against him. Then the second Sufyani will come, and the second Mahdi will come out against him. Then the third Sufyani will come, and the third Mahdi will come out against him, and Allah will rectify through him everything that was corrupted before. Through him Allah will save the people of faith, through him He will revive the Sunan, and through him He will extinguish the fires of innovation. The people during his time will be powerful and victorious over their

opponents, and they will live the best life. Allah will send down showers of rain upon them, and the earth will bring forth its flowers and its crops. It will not withhold any of its crops from them. He will remain like that for seven years, then he will die."

More traditions (*Ahadith*) from miscellaneous collections:

Hazrat Auf bin Manbah[RZ] says: “We used to recite a Tradition that there would be a Vice-Regent in the ummat and Abu Bakr[RZ] and Umar[RZ] would not be superior to him.” (*Uqd-ud-Durar Fi Akhbar Al-Mahdi Al-Muntazar*)

It is related from Salim Ashal[RZ] who narrated “I have heard from Abu Ja’far Muhammad bin Ali[RZ] saying that Musa[AS] has seen in the first book (first volume of Torah) those stations that were being granted to the *Qayam-Aal-e-Muhammad* (i.e., Mahdi[AS]). Thus he said ‘O Allah[SWT]! You make me the *Qayam-Aal-e-Muhammad*. Then he was told that Mahdi[AS] will be from the progeny of Ahmad[SAS]. Hence he saw in the second book (second volume of Torah), there too he found a similar thing. Then he said the same [as he had said before]. Then he got the same reply. Then he saw in the third book (Third volume of Torah). It was the same here too. Then he said the same. Again he got the same reply. (This has been narrated in the third chapter of the book, *Iqd-ud-Durar*.)

Muhammad Ibn Sireen was asked, Is Mahdi[AS] better or Abu Bakr[RZ] and Umar[RZ]. He replied, “Mahdi[AS] is better than these two”. Further, he added, “Mahdi[AS] will also have superiority on some of the Prophets[AS] and Mahdi[AS] is equal to our Prophet[SAS]”. (This is narrated with authority by Abu Abdullah Nu’am bin Hammad in *Kitab Al Fitan. It is also reported in Iqd ud Durar*)

Whoever denies the emergence of Mahdi denied that which has been revealed to Muhammad and whoever denies the descending of Isa then he has denied that which has been revealed to Muhammad. Whoever does not believe in predestination, its good and bad then he has disbelieved that which has been revealed to Muhammad for I have been informed by Jibraeel that Allah has said, “Whoso does not believe in predestination, its good and bad then let him worship another Lord” (*Fasl al Khitab, Lisan Al Mizan and Faraid us Simtain*).

Prophet[SAS] said: Al-Vilayatu Afzal Min An Nubuvah i.e., My Sainthood (Vilayat) is better than my Nubuvat (Prophethood).
(*Ruh Al-**Ma'ani** fi **Tafseer** Al-Qur'an Al-'Adhim wa Al-Sab' Al-Mathani; Sharah Sunan Ibn Majah As Suyuti, Abdul Ghani, Faqr ul-Hasan al-Dahlwi; Mirqa’at ul Mafatih Sharah Mishkat ul Masabih, Al Mulla Ali Qari, Juz 3*)

Prophet[SAS] said: Al-Vilayatu Afzal Min Ar Risalah i.e., My Sainthood (Vilayat) is better than my Risala (Messenger-ship).
(Mirqa'at ul Mafatih Sharah Mishkat ul Masabih, Al Mulla Ali Qari, Juz 4)

Prophet[SAS] said: Mahdiyyu Minni Yaqfu asari wala yuqti i.e., Mahdi is from me, he will follow me in my footprints infallibly.
(Futuhat al-Makkiah, Ibn Arabi)

It is related from Hudhayfa[RZ] that: The Prophethood (nubuwwah) will remain among you for so long as Allah chooses, and He will remove it when He so wills. And a "Powerful Kingdom" will come and persist for so long as Allah desires. Then when He wills to eliminate it He will do so. Then there will come a despotic regime. And then a "caliphate based on the path of prophethood." *(Ramuz Al Ahadith) (Abu Dawud "at-Tayalisi" - from Ahmad ibn Hanbal's "Musnad")*

"...[Thanks to his (Hazrat Mahdi's[AS]) blessing] Someone who is ignorant, fearful and mean at night will be well-informed, brave and generous in the morning. His (Allah's) help will go before him [Hazrat Mahdi[AS]]...He will follow in the footsteps of the messenger of Allah and make no errors; There will be an angel who supports him [Hazrat Mahdi[AS]] without his seeing it, he will set the exhausted on their feet and help the weak, he will practice what he preaches and his words will match his actions."
(Al-Futuhatu'l Makkiyah, Ibn Arabi)

A man who is in fact ignorant, mean, and coward will instantly become wise, generous and brave (in the company of Mahdi[AS]).
(Isha`ah al-Ashrat al-Sa'ah, Muhammad Ibn Abdul Rasul al-Barzanji (al-Madani) (d.1103/1691))

Naim said:
I find Hazrat Mahdi[AS] described thus in the scriptures of the prophets (in the holy pages revealed to Adam, Seth, Idris and Ibrahim): "There will be no oppression and nothing shameful in Hazrat Mahdi's[AS] work."
(Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-Zaman)

Mahdi is highly submissive to Allah. He resembles the Prophet in terms of manners.
(Isha`ah al-Ashrat al-Sa'ah, Muhammad Ibn Abdul Rasul al-Barzanji (al-Madani) (d.1103/1691))

In the narration of Ibn Masud[RZ], the Messenger[SAS] of Allah said, "A son of mine will appear whose manners will be just as mine."
(Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-Zaman)

It is narrated from the Kab that:
He is called the Mahdi since He has a secret power, which cannot be known by anyone.
(Al-Burhan fi Alamat al-Mahdi Akhir al-Zaman)

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Whoever, wherever and whenever Allah[swt] choses to give the mantle of Mahdihood, He will adorn and beautify the nominated one with the following virtuous traits and noble attributes and characteristics and robe and crown him Divinely as seen from the highlighted text in each Prophetic report listed above, the summary of which is reiterated below:

- The Mahdi[AS] is Khalifa of Allah[swt] (Khalifatullah)
- The Mahdi[AS] is the most beautiful and one of chiefs of people of paradise
- The inhabitants of the heavens and the earth will be pleased with him
- His significance is such that even "The great day of reckoning (Qiyamah)" is hinged on his advent, and will wait for his passage
- His character and conduct and behavior resembles that of the Prophet[SAS]
- Anxiety of the Sahaba[RZ] for "fear of innovation after the Prophet[SAS]" was relieved with news of his advent
- Announcement and Call of his arrival is made in Heavens and Skies
- Allah will rectify, establish, and complete the religion with Mahdi[AS] as He began it with Prophet[SAS]
- He is the guardian and protector of the Ummah in its middle period from destruction
- He is on the same footing with two great Prophets[AS] at either end of timeline
- He who will open the fortresses of misguidance and the closed hearts
- The blessings of his company turns ignorant, coward, miser into wise, brave and generous instantly
- The sect who follows him is the one and only among 73 which is saved from the Hell Fire

- Allah support him through holy angels from heavens and people who know Allah (Arifullah) are his supporters on earth
- He is mentioned in the Books of the Prophets[AS], and his deeds has no injustice or deficiency
- He is someone better than Abu Bakr and 'Umar [radhiyallahu 'anhuma]
- His station is such that Hazrat Musa[AS], despite being a Prophet with Book and Shariah, desired the station of Mahdi[AS] be given to him
- Allah will rectify through him everything that was corrupted before. Through him Allah will save the people of faith, through him He will revive the Sunan, and through him He will extinguish the fires of innovation
- Whoever denies him denies the revelation (Qur'an) and all that has been revealed to the Prophet[SLM]
- He's bestowed and honored with Prophet's Sainthood (Vilayat). This Vilayat-e-Muhammadia is better than Nubuvah-wa-Risalat-e-Muhammadia
- His caliphate (Khilafah) is based on the path of Prophethood
- He's infallible in his emulation of the Prophet[SAS]
- And therefore, belief in him and pledging allegiance (Bai'yah) to him and following him after his advent is a religious obligation

And because Mahdi[AS] enjoys exclusively special attributes and perpetual Divine Guidance as listed above, pledging allegiance to him is commanded with so clear instruction, crawling - an un-imaginary action for an adult and traveling in snow, even today not to mention millennia and half ago, a difficult task in itself, are fused together with the expression "crawling over snow" - an inescapable and unforgiving obligation. And despite all such promised bounties for the pledge of allegiance, if someone still remains adamant and unfortunate then he is sternly warned unambiguously by the Prophet[SAS] himself in his holy words:

*"Whoever denies Mahdi is certainly a **disbeliever**".*

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….Continued P.T.O

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وَٱلسَّلَـٰمُ عَلَىٰ مَنِ ٱتَّبَعَ ٱلْهُدَىٰٓ